

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /107 W  
-----086639 080001Z /41

R 071745Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816  
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY  
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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, GW  
SUBJECT: DGB HOLDS NATION-WIDE YOUTH CONFERENCE

REF: (A) BONN A-15, JAN. 14, 1975; (B) BONN 16498

SUMMARY: THE GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB) HELD ITS TENTH NATION-WIDE YOUTH CONFERENCE IN FRANKFURT FROM DECEMBER 1-3, WITH 146 DELEGATES REPRESENTING ABOUT 1.2 MILLION YOUNG TRADE UNIONISTS UP TO AGE 25. UNLIKE THE PREVIOUS YOUTH CONFERENCE IN 1974, WHEN THE DELEGATES DEVOTED MOST OF THEIR EFFORTS TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (REF A), THE DELEGATES THIS TIME CONCENTRATED ON THE DISCUSSION OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND MEASURES TO RESTORE FULL EMPLOYMENT. IN ADDITION TO GUEST DELEGATES FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES, THERE WERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GDR, POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA. A DGB YOUTH DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY ATTEND THE ELEVENTH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MAJOR ISSUE UNDER DISCUSSION WAS YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LACK OF TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER KARL SCHWAB ACCUSED POLITICIANS OF TRYING TO MINIMIZE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IN AN EFFORT TO EXCUSE THEIR INACTIVITY IN THIS MATTER. THE CONFERENCE APPROVED A RESOLUTION UNDER THE TITLE "MEASURES AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AND THE RIGHT TO WORK" WHICH SEES AN INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND GENERAL UNEMPLOYMENT. ITS CONTENT RESEMBLES IN MANY RESPECTS A SIMILAR RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE SEPTEMBER 1977 DGB METALWORKERS UNION CONVENTION (REF B). IN ADDITION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE YOUTH CONFERENCE ALSO CALLS FOR A NATIONALIZATION OF KEY INDUSTRIES, PRIVATE BANKING AND INSURANCE AND OVERALL ECONOMIC PLANNING. IT ALSO SUGGESTS THAT A "REORGANIZATION OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IS INDISPENSABLE" IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POWER CONDITIONS IN FAVOR OF THE WORKERS.

2. A CONTROVERSIAL DEBATE DEVELOPED OVER THE ISSUE OF A COMMITMENT FOR EMPLOYERS TO GIVE APPRENTICES A GUARANTEE OF EMPLOYMENT AS FULL-FLEDGED WORKERS AFTER THE END OF THE TRAINING PERIOD AND PASSAGE OF THE JOURNEYMEN'S EXAMINATION. A MAJORITY OF THE DELEGATES FINALLY APPROVED OF THE DGB POSITION WHICH, ALTHOUGH MAINTAINING A BASIC CLAIM TO AN EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE, REJECTS ANY LEGAL REGULATION TO THAT EFFECT ON THE GROUNDS THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT MIGHT DISCOURAGE EMPLOYERS FROM CREATING AND OFFERING MORE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. AN EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT WOULD RESULT IN EMPLOYERS LIMITING THE NUMBER OF TRAINING POSITIONS TO THEIR ACTUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINED WORKERS IN THE SHORT TERM.

3. THE CONFERENCE DECIDED IN FAVOR OF SENDING A TELEGRAM TO THE GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION TO THE FRG, CRITICIZING THE HANDLING OF THE "BAHRO CASE" (A GDR ECONOMIST AND CRITIC OF THE GDR REGIME) BY THE GDR AUTHORITIES. IT REQUESTED BAHRO'S IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM PRISON ARGUING THAT "THE PUBLICATION OF A CRITICAL MARXIST BOOK BY A TRADE UNION PUBLISHING AGENCY IN THE FRG AND OF INTERVIEWS ON THE CONTENT OF THE BOOK CAN BY NO MEANS BE VIEWED AND DENOUNCED AS INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITY."

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USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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4. PARTICIPATION OF A DGB YOUTH DELEGATION IN THE COMMUNIST-SPONSORED ELEVENTH WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL IN HAVANA (CUBA) EVOKED A LIVELY DEBATE WITH SOME DELEGATES CHALLENGING THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE DGB LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH COMMITTEE WOULD APPROVE THE SENDING OF SUCH A DELEGATION. THE CONFERENCE FINALLY AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS MUST BE MET:

- FREE AND UNLIMITED DISCUSSION, FREEDOM OF PRESS REPORTAGE;
- A CRITICAL DIALOGUE ON THE IMPERIALIST AND COLONIALIST POLICY AND ALSO ON THE HEGEMONY CLAIMS OF THE SOVIET UNION (CUBA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MAJOR EXAMPLE OF THIS POLICY);
- DISCUSSION ON THE CLAIMS OF THE WORKING YOUTH TO THE REALIZATION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL BASIC RIGHTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD;
- A MANIFOLD, OPEN, TOLERANT AND CONSTRUCTIVE-CRITICAL ATMOSPHERE, RATHER THAN A SELF-REPRESENTATION BY THE YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS IN THE FRG WHICH ENDS IN SIMPLE ANTI-COMMUNISM.

5. COMMENT: THE ISRAELI LABOR ATTACHE HERE HAS TOLD US THAT A REFUSAL TO INVITE ISRAEL TO THE WORLD YOUTH FESTIVAL WOULD RESULT IN A DGB DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE.

BERND NICKEL AND HEINZ TREZIBIATKOWSKI REPRESENTED THE FDGB YOUTH FROM THE GDR. A PRIVATE EVENING RECEPTION FOR THE FOREIGN DELEGATES WAS HELD AT THE DGB YOUTH TRAINING CENTER AT OBERURSEL NEAR FRANKFURT. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GDR DELEGATES PRESENTED AN ANTI-FASCIST AWARD TO DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER KARL SCHWAB ON THIS OCCASION. DGB YOUTH SECRETARY WALTER HAAS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM

A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE GDR AND WAS VERY FRIENDLY  
TO THE GDR REPRESENTATIVES THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE.  
THE NEXT VISIT BY DGB YOUTH GROUPS TO THE GDR WILL  
PROBABLY HAVE PART OF THE PROGRAM IN KARL-MARX-STADT  
(CHEMNITZ) INSTEAD OF LEIPZIG. LEIPZIG'S FACILITIES  
HAVE BEEN OVERTAXED BY VISITORS. THE PROSPECTS FOR  
CONTINUED AND MOST PROBABLY EXPANDED EXCHANGES BY DGB  
YOUTH GROUPS WITH THE GDR ARE VERY GOOD.  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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